

Oman Daily Coverage



Disagree

Super Bowl for seven years consecutively before passing away in 2014, Erica Hansen, relations coordinator said.

Zookeepers would present Eli with two beach ball-sized papier-mache football helmets decorated with team logos.

The one he played with first was the team he favoured for the match.

"It started out as a way to provide enrichment," Hansen said. "We wanted to stimulate him and tie it into current events."

In 2014, Eli made his final prediction by correctly picking the Seattle Seahawks to win the Super Bowl.

There is even growing competition among US groundhogs for the title of prime prognosticator.

Relative newcomers Staten Island Chuck of New York City and General Beauregard Lee of Georgia also take their best shot at predicting the end of winter every year.

Groundhogs hibernate through the winter and their biological clocks tell them when it is time to wake and begin reproduction.

This helped give rise to the legend that when a groundhog stops hibernating, spring has come.

Phil can allegedly predict whether spring will come early or late by noting the presence of his shadow when he "burrows" out his heated (by humans) tree stump, known as Gobbler's Knob. If he sees his shadow and hies back in, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not, he is a harbinger of spring.

In 2011, Phil "announced" an early spring, but instead a large snowstorm hit the eastern US was treated to the infamous Groundhog Day Blizzard, a snowstorm that brought 54 centimetres of snow.

In 2012, Phil predicted a long winter, which ended abruptly soon thereafter.

In 2013, his prediction of an early spring was followed by numerous winter storms around the country up through April.

Regardless of what Phil decides, one thing is certain: he will be back again next year to defend his title as America's favourite yet-least-accurate meteorologist as part of a tradition with no end in sight. — dpa/AFP

BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Mohammed Anwar al Balushi

BEHIND the Wheel is a different book. I had a chance to read its Arabic version which carries the title "Khalif Ajalat Al Qyada" and shared it with some friends, and family members. After reading, the readers will easily get the clear message of the writer. The book is a collection of articles and reports about one of the serious issues in Oman — car accidents.

The author should be credited for such a wonderful work serving the nation to overcome such a serious problem. In this book there are informative articles which tell you the causes of road accidents in Oman. All these articles carry different types of stories after reading them someone will start thinking and raise question by himself that "why so many road accidents in Oman?". The book also contains several photos even if someone is not interested in reading the article, and those photos convey the message. In addition, in the reports there are good statistics about the number of deaths due to car accidents on a yearly basis.

Majid al Sulaimani is an author of several books "The Psychology of Arab Management" is one of his famous books, and worth reading too. The author is also well known columnist. He is probably the first Omani, who authored several books in English.



I don't think the author has written "Behind the Wheel" to be credited for himself, rather he wants it as a gift for Oman. Reading this book means creating awareness about road accidents. In fact, some stories mentioned in the book make you weep. These were facts and happened in different areas in Oman, a lot of valuable lives lost on the road.

What should be next? This kind of books should not be kept in shelves for decoration, but must be circulated widely. How? It won't be a bad idea if this book could be read in colleges where the message and awareness of road accidents can be shared with students who recently passed the driving test. All drivers must also read it as it will help them to take care while driving and past mistakes should not be repeated. This book can definitely add value for the police, while giving instructions to new drivers.

Majid al Sulaimani had been successful in conveying his message and this message will be kept and passed to the coming generation as well.



By Vikas Datta

SCIENTISTS are perceived as absent-minded geniuses on some exalted plane of existence, oblivious to appearance or ordinary matters in their quest to understand and explain the mysteries of nature. Perhaps it is why their lives are more recounted in a biography than an autobiography — which most never got around to writing. Feynman, however, was a very intelligent and very irreverent physicist — like this gifted but very irreverent theorist who learnt how to crack safes, played bongo drums, frequented topless bars and eventually won the Nobel Prize.

Richard P. Feynman (1918-88) was one of the most well-known scientists in his time, described by a contemporary as "both genius and buffoon" as well as figuring in the "holy trinity" of 20th century physics along with Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

In "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! Adventures of a Curious Character" (1985) and "What Do You Care What Other People Think?: Further Adventures of a Curious Character" (1988), he shares with us his life and illustrious career which included participation in the Manhattan project (the American development of the atom bomb during World War II) — and this was where

he learnt to crack safes and gave his colleagues near heart-attacks! and in the panel probing the Challenger space shuttle crash — whose cause he simply explained by dropping a rubber clamp in ice water! The books also seek to explain his work in quantum mechanics, quantum electrodynamics (for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1965), quantum computing and nanotechnology as well as his role in popularising a better education system fostering under learning, the importance of curiosity and the scientist's responsibility to society.

And, yes, Feynman did more than any other scientist as a studious figure.

To these ends were his varied escapades and wit — including getting into a room of a bar (earning a black eye in the process) and a nude scene (including of nudes such as of Marie Curie) — and the contention that people don't think of the



By Mohamed Anwar Al Balushi